



# Haverhill

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## ***For Immediate Release:***

3-11-13

### **Mayor Views Renovations of Home that was on the Top of the List for Turn-Around Abandoned Properties**

Today, Mayor James J. Fiorentini toured an abandoned property at 69 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which had been previously highlighted as part of an aggressive series of new measures designed to address neighborhood blight. The Mayor announced that the City's Health Department, Building Department, Inspectional Services Department, Community Development Department and the Haverhill Fire Department had been part of an enhanced Code Team that brought the property to the attention of the Attorney General Martha Coakley's Abandoned Housing Initiative (AHI).

The City working in collaboration with the AHI Team, brought the delinquent owners of this foreclosed property to the Northeast Housing Court. A property receiver, Don Settlemoir, was subsequently appointed by the Housing Court to rectify long standing health, safety and building code violations that were the source of frequent neighborhood complaints. Issue addressed included: overgrowth and fallen trees on the property, replacement of broken windows and gutters. The addition of new siding, entryway doors and the replacement of the plumbing and heating systems was also undertaken. The single family home is almost ready for re-sale as a market rate home.

There is no cost to the City to implement this program, the State covers all of the expenses and the City and the neighborhoods benefit. If you are aware of any homes that should be identified as abandoned properties, please call the City's Health and Inspectional Services Department at 978-374-2325.

Mayor Fiorentini stated:

"This initiative not only helped turnaround an abandoned property, it also helped enhance the neighborhood.

"I want to thank Attorney General Martha Coakley's Office for working with us to help clean up these abandoned properties.

"By participating in the Property Receivership program, we are utilizing a tool that will provide for the rehabilitation of these properties without a cost to the City or liability. This leads to better housing and higher property values for the entire neighborhood. These efforts will improve public safety, provide for a cleaner city, and greater tax generation."



Mayor Fiorentini in front of house before Renovations.



Mayor Fiorentini in front of house after renovations.